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1995/07/28

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O 280959Z JUL 95 FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4347 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG AIT TAIPEI 8180 AMCONSUL SHENYANG AMCONSUL SHANGHAI AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU USMISSION USUN NEW YORK AMCONSUL CHENGOU AMEMBASSY TOKYO



LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIJING 034175

DEPT FOR RAP/CM AND FOR CA/OCS/ACS/RAP

E. O. 12356: N/A TAGS: CASC (WU, PETER H.), CH, HK CJAN
SUBJECT: CHINESE "APPROVE" NEXT CONSULAR VISIT ON
HARRY WU; TIMING "UNDER CONSIDERATION"

REP: BEIJING 33288 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING EMBASSY CONSOFF'S JULY 26 AND 27 TELEPHONE CALLS TO HUBEI PROVINCIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS REPEATING OUR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO

MAKE A SECOND VISIT TO HARRY WU, HUBEI FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL CHEN LIWEN CALLED US AT OOB ON JULY 28 AND INFORMED ACS CHIEF THAT "THE RELEVANT CHINESE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT" HAS AGREED TO ARRANGE FOR A CONSULAR VISIT ON HARRY WU.

- 2. THE TIMING OF THE VISIT, ACCORDING TO CHEN, CURRENTLY "UNDER CONSIDERATION" AND WILL BE SET "AFTER FURTHER RESEARCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 35 OF THE US-PRC CONSULAR CONVENTION" WHICH ALLOWS PRISONER VISITS EVERY THIRTY DAYS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ACCESS TO WU AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.
- COMMENT: THE TIMING OF CHEN'S CALL IS INTERESTING COMING AT OOB ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF HARRY WU'S VIDEOTAPED "CONFESSION" AND MAY BE PARTIALLY IN RESPONSE TO THE URGENCY OF OUR REPEATED REQUESTS FOR ACCESS. THE CHINESE REFERENCE TO THE TIMING OF OUR NEXT VISIT BEING "UNDER CONSIDERATION" JUXTAPOSED TO A REFERENCE TO THE TERMS OF OUR CONSULAR CONVENTION ("NOT LONGER THAN THIRTY DAYS BETWEEN VISITS") LEAVES ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY FOR ANYTHING. WHILE WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ACCESS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. HALLFORD

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